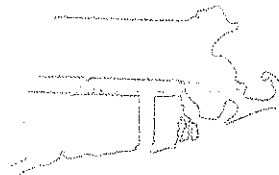




**Independent Electrical Contractors
of New England, Inc.**



**Testimony
Lisa Hutner Stevens
Independent Electrical Contractors of New England
Before the
Public Safety Committee
February 15, 2011**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) strongly **urges support** for **HB-6296, AN ACT ADOPTING THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE, THE INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE, THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE, AND THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE.**

This bill promotes electrical safety by requiring the state to adopt the updated National Electrical Code in a timely manner rather than skipping adoption for several years as is currently the practice. Recognizing this, the vast majority of states have elevated the importance of electrical safety by ensuring that updates to the National Electrical Code are adopted. *In fact, of the 42 states that utilize statewide adoption, 37 states have already adopted the 2008 NEC, see attached.*

The National Electric Code is the most authoritative and comprehensive document on electrical safety. The Code addresses safety issues ranging from fire to electrocution. It is adopted and created through a series of panel discussions across the country with the input of the people in the industry. It is revised every three years to reflect new technologies, improved installation and safety practices and critical safeguards for consumers and people that work in the industry. By failing to adopt the 2008 and 2011 updates to the National Electrical Code, Connecticut has neglected to incorporate many important safety provisions designed to reduce injuries and deaths resulting from electro shock.

For example, the 2008 edition of the Code has been revised to improve electrical safety in dwellings by the continued expansion of arc-fault circuit interrupter protection, ground-fault circuit interrupter protection, and a new requirement for listed tamper-resistant receptacles in areas and rooms of dwelling units. These changes result in increased levels of protection against electric shock and electrocution in unfinished dwelling basements, garages for dwellings and accessory buildings and demonstrate the continued improvement in electrical safety.

In addition, changes in the 2011 edition of the Code have been made with respect to solar PV, to reflect changes in technologies and safety practices, including language for requirements for arc-fault detectors in PV array circuits; major clarifications for

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disconnects for current carrying conductors; and a major change for DC source circuits in metal conduit in buildings. This is vital to ensuring that Connecticut keeps up-to-date with changing technologies.

Failing to adopt the latest code also creates a disconnect between the code that is used in the field for enforcement purposes and the code that is used to train apprentices and test electrical license applicants. License testing is done by a national testing service which bases its tests on the latest published code. Since obtaining previous editions of the code books is very difficult, the latest edition is always taught to the apprentices in our state's Technical High Schools.

Not surprisingly, this results in tremendous confusion in the field and with training. This is clearly a safety issue for the consumers in the state of Connecticut. HB 6296 addresses these concerns by requiring the state to adopt the National Electrical Code and other building codes on a regular basis.

We would also like to address concerns with the bill raised in 2009 by the Home Builders Association of Connecticut (HBA-CT). We agree that builders, inspectors, agency officials and contractors in Connecticut should have the opportunity to review and debate the changes to the code and determine whether they should be incorporated. We in no way want to cut off that debate and recognize that there are differences of opinion regarding some changes that need to be resolved. However, this process should not take several years and code cycles should not be skipped. That doesn't benefit the workers and it doesn't benefit the consumers.

In addition, the HBA-CT has argued that it is a waste of state resources to go through the adoption process if the code only includes minor changes. The steady introduction of new products and technologies into the marketplace — coupled with the release of new research findings by various public and private groups — requires the National Electrical Code to be updated on a regular basis. The 2011 NEC includes hundreds of changes, including changes relative to new technologies such as Solar Photovoltaic, which are crucial to protecting workers and consumers. We have attached a summary of the key changes in the 2011 NEC that are designed to protect worker and consumer safety.

Some have also suggested that rather than require the code to be updated by the State Building Inspector's Office that we require training and testing to be based on the code that has been adopted by the state. However, the training and testing requirements are set on the national level so this is not an option - nor would it be in the best interest of workers and consumers.

We have a tremendous amount of respect for the Home Builders Association of CT and hope that we can work together to address any outstanding concerns and move forward with passage of the bill.

IEC-NE would also support a revision to the composition of the Code & Standards Review Committee to include a representative of the electrical industry and urge your support.

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State	NEC Edition	Comments
Alabama	-	No statewide adoption of NEC; local jurisdictions can adopt and enforce different codes. 2008 NEC was adopted in 2/2008 for state buildings.
Alaska	2008	Effective 9/27/2008. The Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development may, by regulation, adopt the most recent codes to constitute the minimum electrical safety standards.
Arizona	-	The NEC is not adopted at the state level. Local authorities are enforcing 2005.
Arkansas	2008	Effective 6/1/2008. Adopted with no amendments.
California	2005	At the recent annual meeting of the California Building Officials (CALBO), California Building Standards Commission Executive Director announced that on January 12, 2010, the Commission approved adoption of the 2010 California Building Code, 2010 California Residential Code, 2010 California Green Building Code, and the 2010 California Electrical Code. These new codes are scheduled to be published on or before July 1, 2010, maintaining the target enforcement date of January 1, 2011. The building codes are based on the 2009 Editions of the ICC codes. The 2010 California Electrical Code (CEC) is based on the 2008 National Electrical Code with State amendments.
Colorado	2008	Effective 7/1/2008. Adopted with no amendments.

Connecticut	2005	Effective 12/31/2005.
Delaware	2008	The Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission promulgated the 2008 NEC with an effective date of November 11, 2009.
District of Columbia	2005	Effective 12/26/2008. The 2008 DCMR 12 references the 2005 National Electrical Code.
Florida	2008	The State of Florida begins implementation of the 2008 National Electrical Code® (NEC) October 1, 2009 with one amendment to safety
Georgia	2008	Effective 1/1/2009. The only significant amendment that 2008 requirements for AFCI delayed until 1/1/2010.
Hawaii	-	There is no statewide adoption; each county has independent control.
Idaho	2008	Effective 7/1/2008; adopted with amendments.
Illinois	-	There is no statewide adoption of the NEC. The following local jurisdictions have adopted the 2008 NEC: Bloomington, Danville, Decatur, Glenn Ellyn, Normal, Rock Island, State of Illinois Capital Development, Washington.
Indiana	2008	Effective 6/2/2009. Deleted all Arc-Fault circuit protection and Tamper Resistant Receptacle requirements.

Iowa	2008	Effective 2/1/2009.
Kansas	-	There is no statewide adoption of the NEC in Kansas. 2002 Code was adopted for state-owned buildings but local jurisdictions can adopt different codes.
Kentucky	2208	2008 NEC adopted 7/29/09 and enforced effective September 1, 2009.
Louisiana	2008	Effective 1/1/2010.
Maine	2008	Effective 9/1/2008.
Maryland	-	The adoption of the NEC is at the local level. The state adopted the 2005 NEC for state-owned facilities.
Massachusetts	2008	Effective 1/1/2008. Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) has given notice of a public hearing for comments on proposed amendments to the Massachusetts Electrical Code (527 CMR 12.00), including the adoption of the 2011 National Electrical Code (NFPA 70, 2011 Edition), with amendments particular to Massachusetts. The proposal will apply to all electrical installations within the Commonwealth effective January 1, 2011.
Michigan	2008	Effective 12/2/2009.
Minnesota	2008	Effective 9/15/2008; adopted without any amendments.

Mississippi	-	The NEC is adopted at local levels.
Missouri	-	The NEC is adopted and enforced at the local level.
Montana	2008	Effective July 30, 2010
Nebraska	2008	On April 13, 2010, the Governor of Nebraska signed LB 411 which mandates the adoption of the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) with an Effective date of July 12, 2010.
Nevada	-	The NEC is adopted and enforced at the local level.
New Hampshire	2008	Effective 7/1/2008.
New Jersey	2008	Effective 4/6/2009.
New Mexico	2008	Effective 7/1/2008.
New York	2005	The New York State announced an effective date of December 28, 2010 for the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and State Energy Conservation Construction Code updates. The Uniform Code will consist of the following: All codes in the Uniform Code are based on the 2006 (ICC) Codes, with modifications that reference the 2008 National Electrical Code. Part VII – Electrical Provisions of the Residential Code of New York State is based on the 2009 Residential Code Part VIII and also references the 2008 NEC, which can be used in lieu of Part VIII.

North Carolina	2008	Effective 6/1/2008.
North Dakota	2008	Effective 4/1/2008; adopted with three amendments.
Ohio	2008	Effective 1/1/2009, without amendments. The Ohio Board of Building Standards (OBBS) has announced a Public Hearing on January 21, 2011 to consider the adoption of 2011 NEC for the Ohio Commercial Codes which is based on the 2009 I-codes.
Oklahoma	2008	Effective 7/1/2008. Local code adoption is allowed provided the code meets the minimum state adopted standards.
Oregon	2008	Effective 4/1/2008. The State of Oregon has begun the code development process to adopt the 2011 National Electrical Code, and is currently accepting proposals for State amendments to the NEC and to the existing State Electrical Rules. The anticipated adoption date is April 1, 2011.
Pennsylvania	2008	Effective Dec 10, 2009 Pennsylvania adopted the 2009 International Building Code and 2009 International Residential Code which reference the 2008 NEC.
Rhode Island	2008	Effective 8/1/2008.
South Carolina	2008	Adopted and Implemented 7/1/2009.
South Dakota	2008	Effective 7/1/2008.

Tennessee	2008	Effective 1/1/2009 with amendments regulating electrical installations in dwellings.
Texas	2008	Effective 9/1/2008.
Utah	2008	Effective 1/1/2009 with no amendments.
Vermont	2008	Effective 12/1/2008.
Virginia	2005	Effective 3/1/2008.
Washington	2008	Effective 12/31/2008 with state amendments. Scheduled development and adoption of 2011NEC suspended until at least January 1, 2012
West Virginia	2008	West Virginia: As of July 1, 2010 the State of West Virginia adopted the 2008 NEC without amendment.
Wisconsin	2008	Effective 3/1/2009, with some exceptions targeted for adoption 1/1/2010.
Wyoming	2008	Effective 7/1/2008, with no amendments.

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